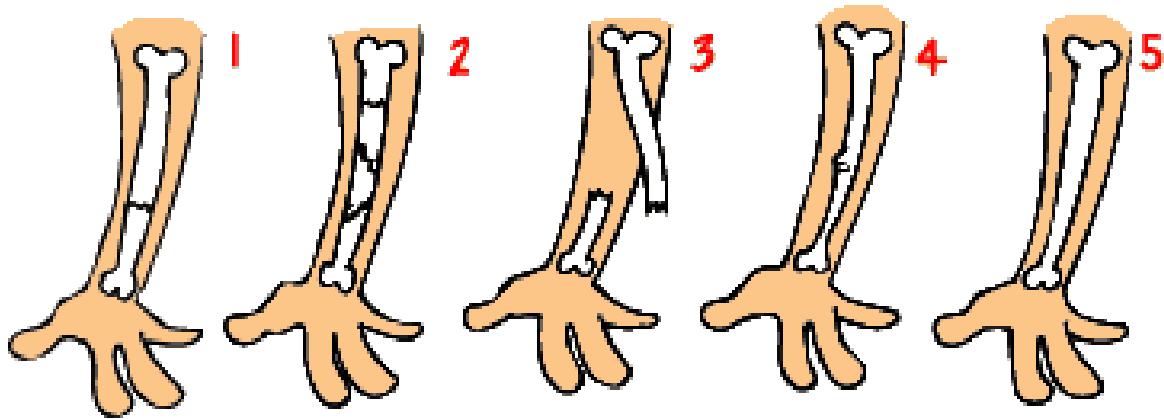


FIRST AID 6 - FRACTURES

A medical condition in which there is a break in the continuity of the bone. A bone fracture can be the result of high force impact or stress, or trivial injury as a result of certain medical conditions that weaken the bones



- **Greenstick fracture:** an incomplete fracture in which the bone is bent.
- **Transverse fracture:** a fracture at a right angle to the bone's axis.
- **Spiral fracture:** a fracture in which the break has a curved or sloped pattern.
- **Comminuted fracture:** a fracture in which the bone fragments into several pieces.
- **Compound fracture:** meaning the bone ends are no longer touching.

Signs and Symptoms:

- Pain and swelling at the fracture site.
- Tenderness close to the fracture.
- Paleness and deformity (sometimes).
- Loss of pulse below the fracture, usually in an extremity (this is an emergency).
- Numbness, tingling or paralysis below the fracture (rare; this is an emergency).
- Bleeding or bruising at the site.
- Weakness and inability to bear weight.

Treatment

Initial treatment for fractures of the arms, legs, hands and feet in the field include splinting the extremity in the position it is found, elevation and ice. Immobilization will be very helpful with initial pain control.